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The Truth about the Railroads. By HOWARD ELLIOTT. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1913. 16 mo, pp. xxii+260. \$1.25.

This book is not a systematic treatment of the present status of the railroads, but is for the most part a collection of addresses, delivered at different places and even on different topics though mainly in defense of the railroads. Almost the same data and arguments, consequently, appear again and again. There is too much repetition and irrelevancy. Mr. Elliott certainly goes beyond the limit of his sphere when he enters into the realm of agricultural history and when he dictates the system of instruction for the development of good citizenship.

The main purpose of the author is to educate the public on the actual facts about railroads and the difficulties they have to labor under, and in these respects he handles the problems quite successfully. He attempts to prove statistically the cheapness and superiority of the railroads in the United States and shows that in spite of the immense service of the railroads in the development of this country in the past and of their great importance in the present, they have been hampered by the state and federal regulations. "The 2-cent maximum fare," Mr. Elliott contends, "is unjust," as it does not enable the railroads even to realize the expense of the passenger trains, the loss being 24 cents per train mile in 1908. It is no wonder that the average net return from railroads scarcely exceeds $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Under such circumstances, it has been almost impossible for railroad companies to get further capital, which is essential for preventing the deterioration of the existing lines as well as for bringing out improvements along with the growing social and economic necessities of the country.

Mr. Elliott bespeaks fair treatment of the railroads at the hand of both the public and the government. Railroads must have as much freedom in the management of their own affairs as any other legitimate business, if they are expected to meet efficiently the growing needs of the country.

The Tyranny of the Country Side. By F. E. GREEN. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1913. 8vo, pp. x+261. 5s.

This volume deals with the darker side of rural England where the condition of the agricultural laborer is shown to be worse than that of the dwellers in the slums of the great cities of that kingdom. The lack of logical treatment and the insufficiency of the statistical data have been compensated for by the local color and personal touch obtained by contact with the actual life in a dozen different counties. Rural housing conditions are wretched. The cottages are often dark and dilapidated and have a very poor water supply. The weekly wages of the peasants are as meager as possible. Though the Board of Trade gave the figure 17s. 6d. as the average for agricultural labor in 1907, the careful